

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 251332

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DRAFTED BY CU/EE:SWISE

APPROVED BY CU/EE:YRICHMOND

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 251332

E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: OEXC, UR

SUBJECT:EXCHANGES: TRAVEL OF AMSPECS SOLOTAROFF AND
WATTENBERG

REF: MOSCOW 15146

1. DEPARTMENT UNDERSTANDS PROBLEMS OUTLINED REFTTEL CONCERNING ARRIVAL OF AMSPECS WATTENBERG AND SOLOTAROFF ON SUNDAY. CU/EE IS WORKING ON WAIVER REQUEST SUGGESTED BY EMBASSY WHICH WOULD FACILITATE ARRIVAL MONDAY. WE WILL INFORM OUTCOME ASAP.

2. HOWEVER, IN CASE OF WATTENBERG, HE STRONGLY PREFERS TO TAKE DIRECT PAN AM FLIGHT ARRIVING MOSCOW SUNDAY, OCTOBER 26. HE UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS IS THREE DAY HOLIDAY WEEKEND FOR EMBASSY AND DOES NOT EXPECT ANYTHING MORE ON SUNDAY THAN TO BE MET AND TAKEN TO HOTEL WHERE HE CAN REST. IF EMBASSY HAS NOTHING PLANNED FOR HIM UNTIL MONDAY EVENING, HE WILL GET IN TOUCH WITH FRIENDS DURING THE DAY. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP IF SUNDAY ARRIVAL ACCEPTABLE ON FOREGOING BASIS.

3. WATTENBERG HAS BEEN TOLD BY LEONARD MARKS TO LOOK UP MARSHALL BREMENT AND HOPES TO SEE HIM DURING HIS STAY.

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PAGE 02 STATE 251332

4. WE ARE FULLY SYMPATHETIC WITH PROBLEMS RAISED BY EMBASSY CONCERNING SUNDAY ARRIVALS. AT THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM IS PAN AM SCHEDULE OVER WHICH WE HAVE NO INFLUENCE. WE HAVE ANALAGOUS PROBLEM HERE CAUSED BY FRIDAY NIGHT ARRIVAL IN WASHINGTON OF AEROFLOT DIRECT FLIGHT. BOTH PROGRAMMING AGENCIES AND CU/EE OFFICERS HAVE WORKED SATURDAYS DURING VISITS OF MIKHAILOKOV, AITMATOV, KHOKLOV AND SOVIET LIBRARY DELEGATION. SINCE INCREASING NUMBER OF USG-FUNDED TRAVELERS WILL BE REQUIRED TO TAKE PAN AM 44 FLIGHT, WE HOPE EMBASSY WILL BE ABLE TO WORK OUT SOLUTION TO THIS PROBLEM, PARTICULARLY SINCE IT INVOLVES LOSS OF PROGRAMMING TIME ON MONDAY. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THIS DOES NOT APPLY WHEN SOVIET ORGANIZATIONS ARE ACTING AS SPONSORS. INGERSOLL

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